

example, the author is much concerned about the "sinful" side of sex during adolescence. Hence we are led to a discussion on mixed bathing; this, it would seem, is harmless when the object of the bathing is to wash one's own body, but harmful when its object is to watch the bodies of others.

Again, a robust and expanding peasantry may well be a safeguard in war-time and a bulwark against revolution; but "back to the land" is not therefore a eugenic measure.

Sound religious views, too, are urged as a necessary eugenic qualification. It is true, as Professor Muckermann ruefully points out, that Galton called himself an agnostic. But Professor Muckermann knows better—Galton was in reality a deeply religious man.

One usual irrelevance is happily notable by its complete absence. The book is entirely free from any suggestion of that race arrogance and political intolerance which has made the Nazi régime stink in the nostrils of decent folk and added so much to the difficulty of eugenic propaganda in civilized countries.

The key to this surprising combination is this. Professor Muckermann is a devout Roman Catholic; in 1927 he was appointed director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology and Eugenics in Berlin; and in 1933 his appointment was terminated.

M. S. PEASE.

Siegel, Morris, M.D. *Constructive Eugenics and Rational Marriage.* Toronto. McClelland and Stewart. Pp. 191. Price \$2.50.

THIS is a clearly written and practical presentation of a eugenic point of view. It is particularly suitable for those in all countries who wish to guide the young, and for the young themselves—though it is applicable primarily to Canada. We may not agree with the author on all points—such as his fears concerning the sterilization of the unfit—but his general outlook is sane and balanced, and he throws a much-needed light not merely on conditions in Canada, but also on our own. His suggestion for the teaching of eugenics in schools should be

useful the world over. He points out that it is free from the objections which can be put forward against the teaching of social hygiene. For instance: "there is no harm in bringing to the attention of young people that, by choosing a mate, we choose not only a partner for life, for better or worse, but we also (with emphasis) choose a parent for our children." When he deplores that "the curriculum for medical students is so framed that very little time is given to the study of heredity and eugenics," and pleads that doctors may in time be so educated that they will regard eugenics as a branch of medicine, we can but wish him success in his efforts, and hope that they will set an example and be followed in this country. It has been stated recently that it is no use passing a sterilization law in England until a sufficient number of doctors are capable of carrying it out! And this astounding ignorance in the medical profession on these matters—or, shall we say, those astonishing gaps in the learning and equipment of our doctors—so well described by Dr. Siegel, apply only too aptly to this country. His indictment of public lethargy and inefficiency should strike a note of warning in every civilized country in the world.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

Fasten, N., Ph.D. *Principles of Genetics and Eugenics.* Boston, 1935. Ginn. Pp. 415. Price \$2.80.

PROFESSOR FASTEN has added to the already rather large library of books giving a general account of the biological phenomena of heredity, though he devotes more space to eugenics than is usually to be found in such volumes. The account given of the familiar Mendelian processes is clear and should be easily understood by a first-year student, but it perhaps might have been wise to point out what is often a striking difference between dominant and recessive characters. Just to say that some characters are dominant because they show themselves when crossed while the recessives are suppressed, gives no indication of the possible nature of such characters. The fact that many recessive

characters *lack* the something which the dominant possesses, makes the conception of these phenomena much clearer to the student.

On page 109, the author shows a figure which could well have been omitted. It purports to show a human gynandromorph, and is a character from a film, "by courtesy of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Film Corporation." The photo shows nothing except a woman very obviously made up, and has no place in any volume which pretends to be a scientific work. To a critical layman, the inclusion of such a worthless illustration would at once cast doubt on the bona fides of the whole book and is therefore most unfortunate.

Professor Fasten's account of eugenics is clear and puts the case well. It is perhaps a pity that he has not devoted more space to the inheritance of good characteristics in human beings. While deleterious characters are dealt with at some length, such interesting pedigrees as those of the Darwin and Bach families are dismissed in a few lines. Eugenics to many people merely means the control of mental deficiency; this attitude is fostered by the disproportionate amount of space allotted to the inheritance of good and bad characters in some eugenic literature.

C. C. HENTSCHEL.

MARRIAGE

Barry, F. R., Canon of Westminster.

Mullins, Claud, Metropolitan Magistrate, and **White, Douglas, M.D.** *Right Marriage.* Student Christian Movement Press. Pp. 29. Price 6d.

Hough, Rev. N. S., A.K.C. *Letters on Marriage.* Skeffington & Son. Pp. 94. Price 2s.

Mullins, Claud. *Wife and Husband in the Courts.* George Allen & Unwin. Pp. 128. Price 3s. 6d.

Cox, Dr. Gladys M., M.B., B.S. *Youth, Sex and Life.* C. Arthur Pearson. Pp. 229. Price 3s. 6d.

Right Marriage is an admirable and concise

symposium from Church, Bench and Medicine. It should be welcomed by all who hope to make their marriage enduring and sacred. Moreover it is a satisfactory omen for the future of eugenics when religious-minded people, at least in the Church of England, maintain that birth-control and sterilization of the unfit are not only permissible, but that thanks to such means "the flouting of God's will by the birth of defective children is rendered impossible."

Letters on Marriage, between a clergyman and his niece, discuss whether the latter should be married in church or in a registry office. This leads to further discussion on divorce, etc., and proves that the uncle holds very reasonable views on birth-control and sex education. His letters should be a helpful introduction to many, and especially to those who like breeziness in the Church. There is also a useful bibliography.

Wife and Husband in the Courts is a clear exposition of present legal methods and possible improvements; and proves once more Mr. Mullins's deep sympathy with suffering humanity. The book is not concerned with eugenics, but it stresses that "the welfare of the children is the principal consideration," and welcomes the help and advice of the medical man, especially in the field of psychology and in cases of sexual maladjustment.

Youth, Sex and Life, by Dr. Gladys Cox, is a much more comprehensive work, as the title implies, and is written in straightforward and simple language both for young people of both sexes and for parents. Its value would be enhanced by a good bibliography and index, but the matter is well set out, under clear headings. It ranges over a great variety of subjects and is illustrated by excellent diagrams. We particularly welcome the pages on heredity and eugenics, which are lucid and convincing and should dispel many popular misconceptions.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.